

BA 2499

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 2499

Magi No. 0324995304

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Parrish Family Farm House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2315 White Hall Road

☐ not for publication

city, town White Hall

☐ vicinity of

Councilmanic District 3rd
congressional district 2nd

state Maryland

21161

county

Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Lucy Parrish Wilmer & Mr. William Holland Wilmer II

street & number 2315 White Hall Road

telephone no.: 329-6286

city, town White Hall

state and zip code Maryland 21161

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building

liber 4904

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

folio 48

city, town

Towson

state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title No previous study

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Parrish Family Farm House is a three-part house in a Pennsylvania-German style, with an old stone starter house of ca. 1802. The stone portion is three stories high, four bays wide, with two paired front doors that probably served two families or parts of the same family. The main facade faces south. The house is just one room deep in the old part, an I-house as they are sometimes called. There is a full-width front porch only a few steps above ground. The front rooms have been reworked into one large, well lighted living room the entire width and depth of the starter house, with two matching fireplaces at opposite ends. Interior trim is probably later than the basic house, with prominent bull's eye corner blocks and heavily fluted door frames. The present owners have added Federal fireplace mantels and some room cornices. The outside walls of the main block are built of massive stones, with unusually large blocks saved for quoining the corners. Remarkably large grey stones, possibly granite, are used as window lintels. The source of this material could have been the Greystone Quarry less than two miles away.

The stone portion is gable-roofed and has small square gable-end windows in the attic. A datestone, now missing, from the gable peak on the west would have removed any conjecture about the date of construction.

The middle section of the house is frame and clapboard with a modern entrance vestibule. This section contains a well built curved stairway of the sort found in North End rural dwellings. The balusters are sturdy and the turned mahogany newel post is massive, in a design found in such places as the Parkton Hotel, Hill House, etc., but not a delicate product of Federal style. The dining room in this section has been rendered into a Federal style by Mr. Wilmer, a dedicated hobbyist. A painting fitted into a rectangular space in the overmantel is a reproduction of Charles Willson Peale's view of Chestertown and Washington College. This room had been the kitchen of the prior owner, Mrs. Lizzie. A new kitchen has been added to the north.

In the cellar under the stone house, the underpinning of the first story flooring can be seen, logs with the bark intact, slightly flattened on top, otherwise round. The ends of the log rafters have been hand-worked probably with adzes to provide a flat barkless surface for resting on the foundation walls.

This house exists in a private world, well away from the road, facing the stream valley rather than White Hall Road. It was probably missed by J. C. Sidney's map team in 1850. The house is a good example of creeping Pennsylvania influence in the north end of the county, slightly less than six miles below the Mason Dixon Line.

An old cemetery on the farm marks the burial place of members of the Norris family, owners of some of the land in the 18th century.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1802, 1850s Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This sturdy stone farm house has been standing certainly since the first quarter of the 19th century. The ground has been in the hands of various related families since at least 1773. The Norrises for whom Norrisville is named were owners of some of the ground and were related to the Parrishes. The house went out of the Parrish family at one point in the 20th century, then returned in the person of Mrs. Lucy Parrish Wilmer and her husband William Holland Wilmer II.

Few masonry houses were found in the 1798 tax list of Mine Run Hundred, Edward Parrish owned 180 acres adjoining William Johnson and Richard Jones. His residence was only a one-story log structure, and his outbuildings were also log. On March 22, 1834, Edward Parrish left 78½ acres to his son Norris B. Parrish. (1)

This is the same Edward Parrish whose life dates are given as 1757-183? in a list of Revolutionary patriots. That Parrish had in 1782 married Clemence Hughes. He enlisted in the Maryland Line on July 26, 1776, made the rank of sergeant, and was once wounded. His widow in 1836 was awarded a pension, to be paid via her representative, James Nelson. (2) The 1830 Census of Old District 5 showed that Edward Parrish was between 70 and 80 years old. (3) The 1840 census of what was called District 4 listed Clemence Parrish as head of household, between 59-60 years of age. Her nearest neighbors were Greenbury Norris and Walter C. Walker. (4)

Only one house was shown on the entire stretch of White Hall Road from the Gemmils corner to the Harford County line on the 1850 county map published by J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne; that map showed only the B. Slade house and calls the road Ridge Road. The 1863 map made by the Union army topographers still showed only B. Slade. The house is not visible from the road and the field survey teams of Sidney and Browne could easily have missed it.

The present owners estimate the date of the house at 1802 and the exact year could be instantly established had not the date stone disappeared from the gable peak some owners back.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 2499
MHT Inventory No.

name of property:

Section number 8 Page 2

Parrish Family Farm House

Norris B. Parrish enlarged his property in 1854, buying 53½ acres from John and Elizabeth Delcamp, including tracts with the characteristic patent names "Norris' Inheritance" and "Johnson's Choice." The land was described as lying on the "public road from Black Horse to White Hall." (5) In 1887, Norris B. Parrish conveyed to his son Thomas L. Parrish. (6) Thomas L. Parrish had been shown as resident and presumed owner ten years before by the 1877 county atlas. In the atlas patron list, he gave his profession as farmer, owner of 136 acres. He gave his "date of settlement" as 1848, which is no doubt his date of birth because his "nativity" was listed as Baltimore County. Scharf's 1881 history listed him among the "prominent dairy-men" of White Hall. (7)

Thomas L. Parrish was a widower when he conveyed the property to Joshua Bond in 1934. (8) Joshua Bond sold to Edward A. and Dorothy Lovell Luzzie in 1943. (7) In 1968, Mrs. Luzzie, a widow, conveyed the property to the present owners. (10)

It seems likely that a house so clearly a product of the agricultural boom of the early 19th century was constructed during the tenure of Edward Parrish, after the 1798 tax list and before his death in 1834. The frame addition would date from the tenure of Norris B. Parrish. The main house would logically sit upon the 78½-acre parcel inherited in 1834 from Edward Parrish, rather than on the 53½ acres purchased in 1854 to expand the farm.

This house has had perhaps only six owners in its estimated lifetime; it has been inherited only once and was probably never advertised for sale during the 19th century.

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County/City Wills, DMP 15:379, Hall of Records, Annapolis.
2. Henry C. Peden, Jr., Revolutionary Patriots, Family Line Publications, Silver Spring, Md., 1988, p. 205.
3. U.S. Census, 1830, Maryland, Baltimore County Collection District 5, f. 163.
4. U.S. Census, 1840, Maryland, Baltimore County Collection District 4, f. 136.
5. Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 8:84, Towson.
6. Baltimore County Deeds, JWS 165:192.
7. J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 871.
8. B.C. Deeds, CWB 943:196.
9. B.C. Deeds, RJS 1281:159.
10. B.C. Deeds, OTG 4904:48.

PARRISH/HISTORY

9. Major Bibliographical References

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No published data known.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 152Quadrangle name NorrisvilleQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Irregular parcel binding 2,900 feet on south side of White Hall Road. Bounded on south by other large farms. See Tax Map 18, Parcel P16.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	N/A	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrainorganization Office of Planningdate December 13, 1991street & number 401 Bosley Avenuetelephone 887-3211city or town Towsonstate MD 21204

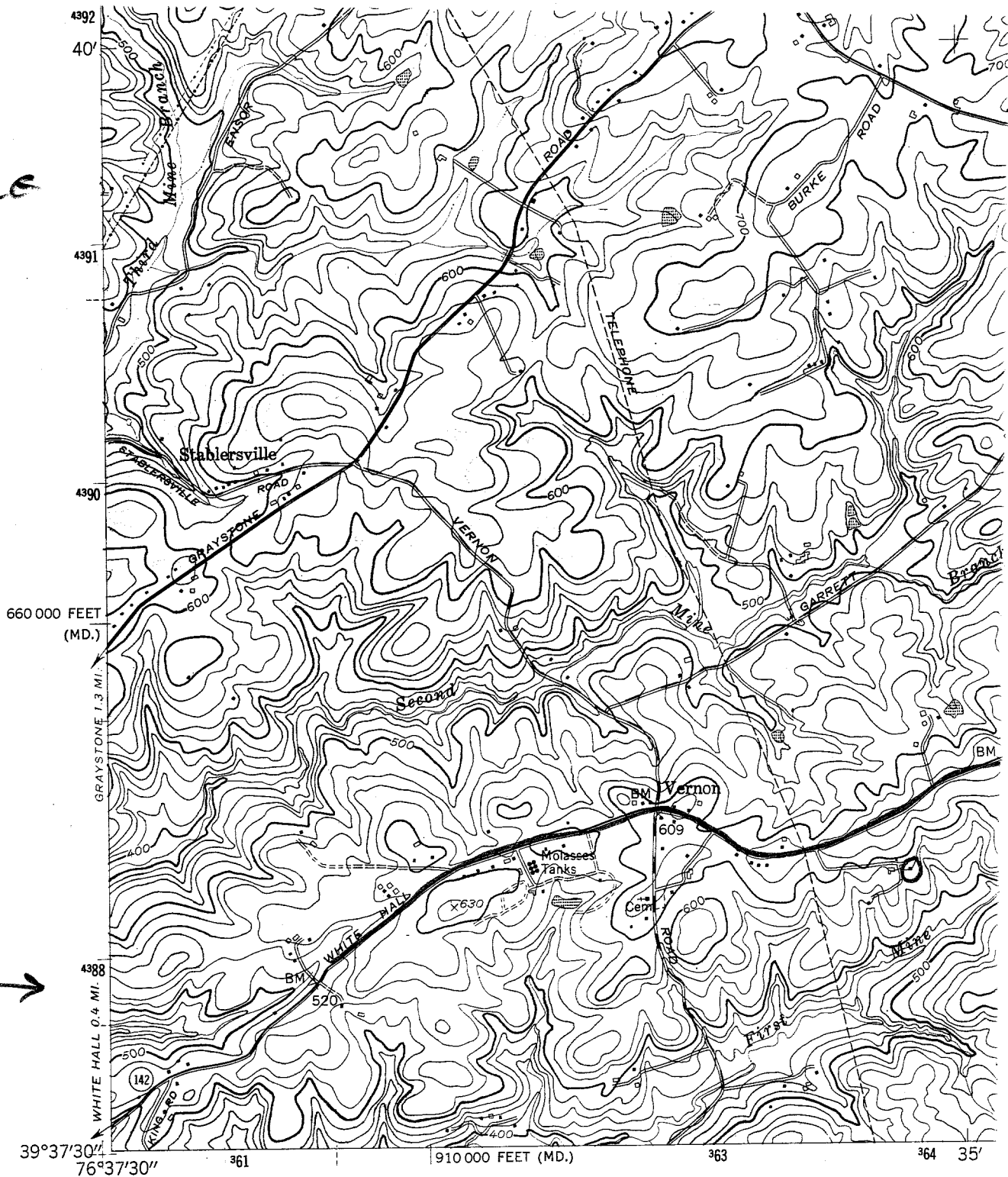
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

NORRISVILLE
QUAD

BA2499 →



(HEREFORD)
5663 II SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

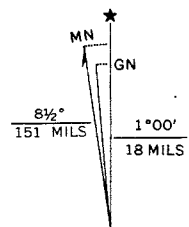
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and USSCS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1956 - 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system,
and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 7 meters south and
28 meters west as shown on the corner ticks



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Map photoinspected 1984

No major culture or drainage changes observed